

24958A

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cooling filaments in a filament forming process comprising:

a bushing;

a first air nozzle located at a first position, said first air nozzle directing air at the filaments upstream of a second nozzle; and

said [[a]] second nozzle located at a second position downstream of said first nozzle, [[said second nozzle directing a second fluid at the filaments,]] wherein said second nozzle directs a second fluid at the filaments downstream of said air directed by said first nozzle; wherein said first nozzle and said second nozzle are positioned to direct said [[first fluid]] air and said second fluid at the filaments upstream of a size applicator in the filament forming process, wherein said first nozzle and said second nozzle are positioned downstream of said bushing; and

a gathering shoe for gathering said filaments into a strand.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filaments are attenuated from a bottom plate of a bushing, and said first position is closer to the bottom plate than said second position.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said second fluid is water.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said second fluid is a mixture of air and water.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said second nozzle is an air-atomizing nozzle.

24958A

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising:
a first manifold, said first nozzle being coupled to said first manifold; and
a second manifold, said second nozzle being coupled to said second manifold,
wherein air is conveyed in said first manifold and water is conveyed in said second manifold.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cooling filaments in a filament forming process, the filaments attenuated from a bottom plate of a bushing, the filaments subsequently contacting a size applicator, the apparatus comprising:

a bushing having a generally planar bottom plate;

a first air nozzle disposed to direct air; said first air nozzle directing air at the filaments upstream of a second nozzle; and

[[a]] said second nozzle located at a second position [[upstream]] downstream of said first nozzle, said second nozzle directing air at the filaments; wherein said second nozzle directs air at the filaments downstream of said air directed by said first nozzle; and

a gathering shoe for gathering said filaments into a strand.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

24958A

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising:
a first manifold coupled to said first nozzle; and
a second manifold coupled to said first nozzle, wherein air is conveyed in said first manifold and water is conveyed in said second manifold.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising:
a size applicator.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said first nozzle is directed toward a filament forming region between said bottom plate and said size applicator and in a direction downstream along the filaments relative to a plane parallel to said bushing bottom plate.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said first nozzle is oriented at an angle relative said plane, the angle being in the range of 0 to 35 degrees.

Claims 15-27 (Canceled)